Quartermaster Hall of Fame *component 1*
Nominee: Ralph W. Persico, deceased
Formal Letter of Nomination

Donnamarie and Richard Persico
8600 Belfry Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19128

Home Phone: 215-487-2055
Cell: 267-249-3286

Ralph W. Persico was a man of few words, extraordinary talent and many achievements. Though deceased since 1987, his legacy as a father and a gentleman remains with us and is a driving force in our lives and the lives of our children.

Our father Ralph's patriotism, sense of service and duty to America, the country he so loved, did not end with his honorable discharge on December 19, 1945. Those qualities were paramount throughout his entire life. Ralph's affiliation with the Quartermaster began in October 1948 in the Research and Development Division of Clothing Textiles and Footwear for the U.S. Army as a designer of Military Apparel and continued until 1968 as a consultant to the Quartermaster in that same division.

In his lifetime, our father would never pursue the unprecedented honor of being in The Quartermaster Hall of Fame. He was a quiet man who never needed validation. We, Ralph's family, would like to see his achievements acknowledged as a tribute to his life for future generations. It is one thing to tell people of a beloved father's achievements, it is quite another to have his country acknowledge those achievements.

We seek to have Ralph acknowledged in The Quartermaster Hall of Fame specifically for his designs of:

1. **The Armored Vest** of which he is the inventor (United States Patent Office, Patented October 8, 1957 #2,808,588).

2. The patterns he produced for the Men's Army Green Uniform

3. The patterns for ALL of the functional field uniforms for men and women of the Army since his original development of the cold weather clothing system.

We thank you for the consideration you may give to our father in the most worthy honor of being inducted into The Quartermaster Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna & Richard Persico

Quartermaster Hall of Fame *component 2*
Nominee: Ralph W. Persico, deceased
Narrative description of the Candidates Significant Contributions to the QMC

What better description could there be than that of Mr. Stephen Kennedy who made this submission on Ralph's behalf in 1968:

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR PATRIOTIC CIVILIAN SERVICE
FOR
MR. RALPH W. PERSICO
DESIGNER
H. FREEMAN & SON, INC.
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

1. Mr. Persico is currently the designer for H. Freeman & Son, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a large quality-clothing manufacturer producing men's clothing for better quality retail stores throughout the U.S.

2. He served as a consultant to these Laboratories since 1955, following seven years of service as Chief Designer for Army apparel as a member of the Quartermaster Research and Development Staff. In this capacity as our principal consultant on Army clothing and uniforms, he developed all final designs, master patterns and grading for the Army Green uniform for both men and women, the summer tropical weight uniform, the men's overcoat, and all final designs and patterns for Army combat clothing, including the recently (1965) standardized cold weather uniform and the tropical combat uniform now being warn in Vietnam.

3. His accomplishments for the Army have been many. He participated in the development of the patterns for the U.S Air Force blue uniform, which was developed originally by the Army Quartermaster Corps in 1948-1950.

4. Following this, he undertook the development of design and patterns for the men's Army Green uniform, working with the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council Advisory Committee on Men's Military Clothing, whose members included: Mr. Meyer Kestnbaum, President, Hart Schaffner and Marx; Mr Irvin Bender, S. Ginsberg Sons; Mr. Clyde Bordner, Rogers Peet Company; Mr. David L. Charney, Trimount Clothing Company; Mr. Guido Fusaro, Louis Goldsmith, Inc.; Mr. Hugo Gemignani, Hickey-Freeman; Mr. Achille Mongelli, H. Freeman and Son, Inc.; and Mr. Joseph Salvatore, Eagle Clothes, Inc.

5. The high standards of quality of appearance and fit which has characterized the Army Green uniform is attributed to a significant degree to the quality of Mr. Persico's designing ability and the exceptional fine patterns that he produced for use by the defense Personnel Support Center in procurement and manufacturing on all Army uniforms. The late Mayer Kestnbaum, former president of Hart Schaffner and Marx, made the comment at the time of the adoption of the Army Green uniform that the patterns for this uniform were probably the most perfect series of patterns ever developed in the men's clothing field.

6. In addition, Mr. Persico has designed and developed the patterns for all of the functional field uniforms for men and women of the Army since his original development of the cold weather clothing system adopted by the Army in 1950.

7. Mr. Ralph Persico qualifies as one of the outstanding younger men's clothing designers in

America and ***his achievements as designer for the Army establish his position as probably the most outstanding designer ever employed by the Army for its uniforms and clothing.***

8. In recognition of his significant contributions to the Department of the Army and his dedication to providing to the Army of well-designed and well-fitting clothing and uniforms, Mr. Ralph W. Persico is recommended for the award of Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service.

STEPHEN J. KENNEDY
Director, Clothing and Personal
Life Support Equipment Laboratory

Quartermaster Hall of Fame *component 3*
Nominee: Ralph W. Persico, deceased
Career Data

Military Service History

November 25, 1940	Volunteered Service U.S. Army
August 12, 1944	Commendation, Camp Gruber, Oklahoma
December 12, 1944 to May 8, 1945	Overseas Service: France, Germany and Austria Received two battle stars and Bronze Medal for meritorious service against the enemy
September 31, 1945	University of Paris: Army Education Program Certificate on Dress Designing and Dressmaking, superior proficiency rating
December 19, 1945	Honorably discharged: Staff Sergeant 42nd Infantry Division

Civilian Employment History

January 1946 to 1948	Clothing contractor of Military Uniforms: Jacob Reed & Sons, Philadelphia
October 1948 to 1955	Designer & pattern maker: Quartermaster: Research and Development Division of Clothing Textiles and Footwear
1955-1986	Design Consultant: Quartermaster, Natick, Massachusetts
1955-1961	Clothing designer: H. Freeman & Son, Inc., Philadelphia
1961-1963	Clothing designer and quality controller: Middishade Co., Philadelphia
1963-1985	Executive Vice President and Clothing Designer: H. Freeman & Son, Inc., Philadelphia

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR PATRIOTIC CIVILIAN SERVICE

IS AWARDED TO

Ralph M. Persico

CITATION: In recognition of significant contributions to the Department of the Army as designer for H. Freeman & Son, Incorporated, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Consultant, U. S. Army Natick Laboratories. His professional competence and dedicated support of the military clothing program contributed immeasurably to the development of well-designed and well-fitting military clothing and uniforms.

4 April 1968
Washington, D. C.

F. S. BESSON, JR.
General, USA
Commanding
U. S. Army Materiel Command

(l. to r.) B. H. Freeman, Pres. H. Freeman & Son, Inc.; Ralph W. Persico, Designer H. Freeman & Son, Inc.; Dr. Steven J. Kennedy, Chief of Textile & Organic Material Branch, U.S. Army Natick Laboratories, Natick, Mass.; Theodore Bailey, Chief of Clothing Branch U.S. Army, Natick, Mass.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Mr and Mrs Ralph W Persico
C/o B Freeman and Sons
33rd and Arch Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
19104

The President and Mrs Nixon
request the pleasure of the company of
Mr and Mrs Persico
at dinner
on Tuesday evening, April 17, 1973
at eight o'clock

THE RESEARCH DIRECTORS

of the

QUARTERMASTER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

take great pleasure in presenting to

RALPH W. PERSICO

THIS CERTIFICATE OF HONORABLE MENTION FOR 1952

in recognition of noteworthy achievement in the performance of research and development responsibilities

William D. Jackson
CHIEF, Research & Development Division

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, Research & Development Division

RESEARCH DIRECTORS:

Chemicals & Plastics Branch

Dispensing & Handling Equipment Branch

Environmental Protection Branch

Heraldic Branch

Mechanical Products Branch

Textile, Clothing & Footwear Branch

RICHARD NIXON

February 5, 1985

26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY

Dear Bill,

Only a very painful and stubborn case of shingles could have kept me from attending Freeman and Sons' 100th anniversary celebration on January 15th.

I hope that you and your associates will raise a commemorative glass of the champagne I sent to you -- having in mind the fact that I will be doing so as well in spirit if not in person.

It is hard to realize that 30 years have passed since Jerry Persons took me to Philadelphia to meet Ben Freeman for the first time. Angelli was the tailor, and from that time until the present day I have never worn any suits except those made by Freeman and Son. If I had not made the worlds best-dressed lists it was only because of my posture rather than the quality of the suits!

Mrs. Nixon joins me in extending our deep appreciation for the many courtesies you have extended to us over the years. We hope that 1985 will be your best year yet.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

Mr. Bill Persico

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

FRANK L. RIZZO
MAYOR

November 15, 1973.

Mr. Ralph W. Persico,
7328 Hill Road,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128.

Dear Bill:

Thank you for joining me in proclaiming Men's Fashion Week.

I thought you might enjoy having the enclosed photograph as a memento of the occasion.

Sincerely,

FRANK L. RIZZO

FLR:zmt
Enclosure.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U S ARMY NATICK LABORATORIES
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS 01760

AIR MAIL
IN REPLY REFER TO

AMXRE-C

8 November 1972

Mr. Ralph Persico
H. Freeman & Sons, Inc.
33rd & Arch Streets
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

Dear Bill:

As one of my last official acts as Director of this Laboratory, I should like to express to you my personal appreciation, both for your friendship over all these years and for the generous contributions which you and all of your staff have made to our Laboratory in meeting our requirements.

It has always been a source of tremendous satisfaction and reassurance to know that we could call on someone so capable and so friendly as yourself and to know that you would help us out in a difficult technical problem. It has seemed to me that only through your advice and help we have many times been able to meet our obligations.

I bespeak on behalf of my successor, John Hansen, and all of your friends here at Natick for your continued assistance. I know they will need it and I feel confident that in your desire to be of service to our Country, you will want to continue to provide this technical back-up to our programs.

Please extend to your family my sincere good wishes for all you may do in the future.

Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN J. KENNEDY
Director, Clothing and Personal
Life Support Equipment Laboratory

Oct. 8, 1957 R. W. PERSICO 2,808,588

ARMORED VEST

Filed Feb. 21, 1955

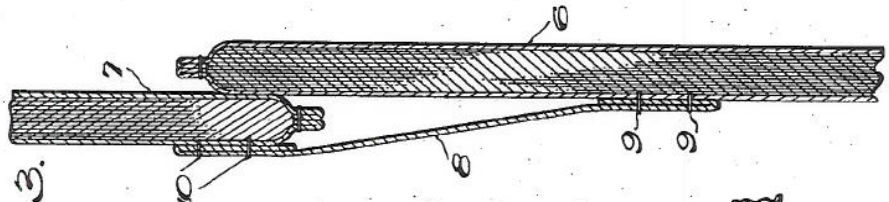

Fig. 3.

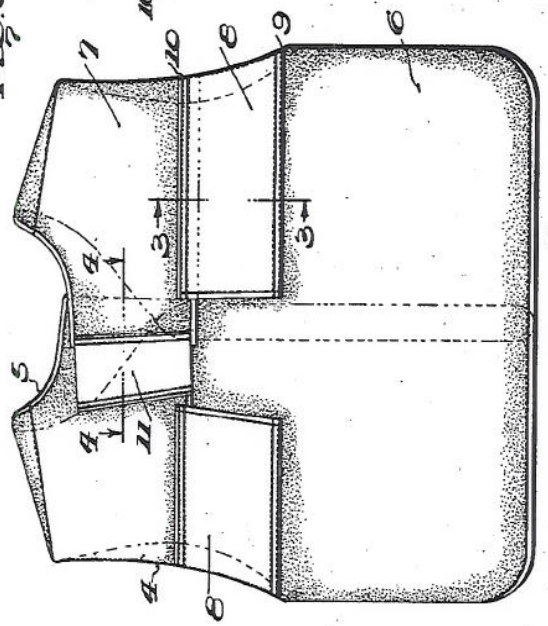

Fig. 2.

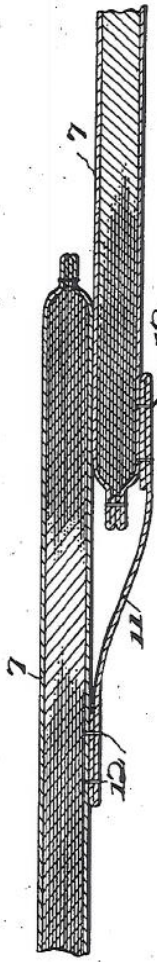

Fig. 4.

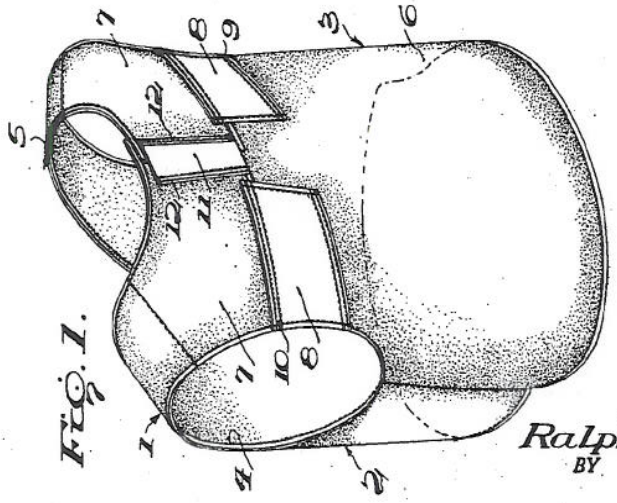

Fig. 1.

INVENTOR.

Ralph W. Persico

BY

W. J. Eccleston,

United States Patent Office

2,808,588

Patented Oct. 8, 1957

2,808,588

ARMORED VEST

Ralph W. Persico, Philadelphia, Pa., assignor to the United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Army

Application February 21, 1955, Serial No. 489,814

1 Claim. (Cl. 2—2.5)

(Granted under Title 35, U. S. Code (1952), sec. 266)

The invention described herein, if patented, may be manufactured and used by or for the Government for governmental purposes, without the payment to me of any royalty thereon.

This invention relates to armored clothing such as armored vests.

It will be readily understood by those skilled in the art that the armor incorporated in wearing apparel as protection even against low velocity shell, mortar and grenade fragments, must be rather heavy, thick and relatively stiff in order to provide the necessary resistance. When so modified however the garments would ordinarily be rendered almost entirely useless for combat soldiers unless some provision is made to provide maximum maneuverability while providing maximum protection at all times, particularly when it becomes necessary for the soldier to assume a prone position for firing.

It is an object of the present invention therefore to modify the construction of armored apparel so as to permit relatively free movement of the arms, shoulders, back, etc., so that the wearer may have maximum maneuverability at all times and yet receive maximum protection from the armor.

More specifically it is an object of the invention to so construct the back of an armored vest or like garment, that sections of the back armor may have universal movement without in any way exposing the wearer's body to the missiles referred to.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the back of the improved armored vest;

Figure 2 is an elevational view of the back of the vest; and

Figures 3 and 4 are sectional views taken on the lines 3—3 and 4—4 of Figure 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring to the drawings more specifically, the numeral 1 indicates the armored vest generally and which is composed of a front portion 2, back 3, arm openings 4 and neck opening 5.

The back 3, which is the only portion of the garment with which the present invention is concerned, comprises a lower section 6 of armored material and a pair of upper sections 7 of the same material. This material, in order to accomplish its purpose of protecting the body of the wearer from low velocity shells and the like, must be rather thick and tough and therefore relatively stiff. The material shown in the present illustration is substantially the same as that disclosed in Ehlers Patent No. 2,640,987, but it will be readily understood that other types of armor material may be employed, all having in common the element of stiffness and resistance to shell fragments, etc.

When a garment is provided with armor material it practically immobilizes the wearer and very materially reduces his effectiveness in combat. It is for this reason that the armor material of the present invention is made up of a lower section 6 and a pair of upper sections 7 united in a manner to permit relative movement between the sections without exposing the wearer's body to shell fragments, etc. In the present illustration the lower section 6, which is substantially coextensive with the width of the wearer's body, is suspended from the upper sections 7 by strips of flexible fabric 8—8 stitched or otherwise connected to the lower section 6 by lines of stitching 9 and to the upper sections 7 by similar securing means 10. Likewise the sections 7—7 are connected by a flexible strip 11 having its vertical edges stitched to the respective sections by lines of stitching 12—12.

As shown more clearly in Figures 3 and 4, the lower section 6 overlaps the upper sections 7 and the two sections 7 have their adjacent edges in overlapping relationship, and these overlapping relations are maintained by the flexible strips 8 and 11 while permitting relative movement between the several sections 6 and 7. This flexibility incorporated in the back of the armored garment provides maximum maneuverability while maintaining maximum protection. For instance, when the wearer changes from a standing position to a prone position the articulated arrangement of the sections 6 and 7 through the medium of the flexible sheets 8 and 11 permits the necessary freedom of movement of the wearer's arms, neck, back, etc., thus preventing the back of the vest from riding up over the wearer's neck so as to displace his helmet, or otherwise interfere with necessary activities of the wearer.

In accordance with the patent statutes, I have described what I now consider to be the preferred form of the invention, but inasmuch as various minor changes may be made in structural details it is intended that all such changes be included within the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

In an armored vest or like garment, a back composed of three sections of relatively stiff armor material, namely, a lower section substantially coextensive with the width of the wearer's back, a pair of upper sections having their lower edges overlapping the upper edge of the lower section, said upper sections having their adjacent edges in overlapping relationship, a pair of laterally spaced sections of flexible material connecting said lower and upper sections to permit relative movement therebetween while maintaining the overlapping relationship, and a third section of flexible material connecting said upper sections to permit relative movement therebetween while maintaining the overlapping relationship.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,084,173	Wexler	June 15, 1937
2,251,018	Lookabaugh	July 29, 1941
2,311,799	Wexler	Feb. 23, 1943
2,369,416	Solomon	Feb. 13, 1945
2,640,987	Ehlers	June 9, 1954

Oct. 21, 1958 R. W. PERSICO ET AL 2,856,609

ADJUSTABLE HEMS

Filed April 3, 1956

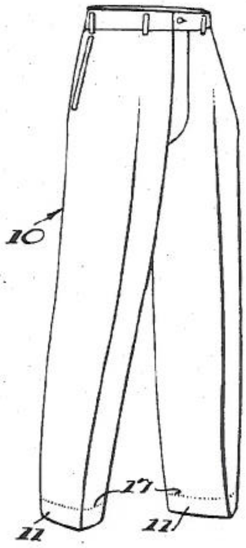

Fig. 1.

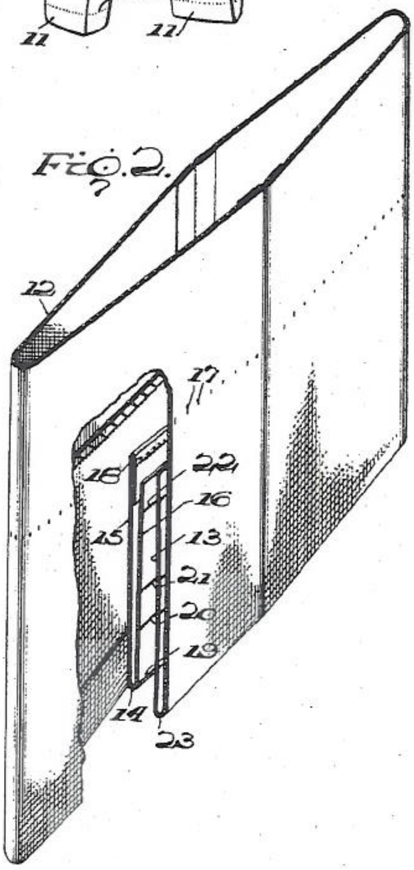

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

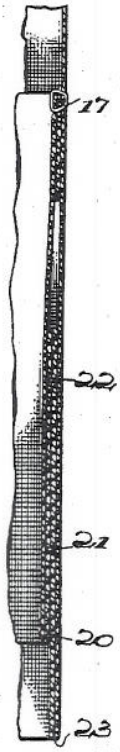

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

INVENTORS

Ralph W. Persico.

Michael P. Carlucci

BY W. J. Eccleston

ATTORNEY